

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

AID-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 /079 W

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R 180505Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 3010

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2124

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR KU, SA, QA, TC, BA, MU, YE, YS.

SUBJ: KUWAIT AID AND OTHER GULF DECISIONS

REF: KUWAIT 1971 (NOTAL)

1. THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH PRESENT VISIT KUWAIT CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER JABER AL-AHMAD TO LOWER GULF (REFTEL), GOK RECENTLY TOOK TWO IMPORTANT STEPS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH LOWER GULF AND ARABIAN PENINSULA STATES.

2. FOLLOWING WEEKLY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION MAY 11, GOK SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED CITIZENS OF SAUDI ARABIA, BAHRAIN AND UAE WILL BE GRANTED SAME PRIVILEGES AS KUWAITI CITIZENS WITH RESPECT TO OPENING BUSINESSES AND OWNING REAL ESTATE HERE, PROVIDED RECIPROCAL RIGHTS FOR KUWAITIS ARE LEGISLATED IN THESE COUNTRIES. SPOKEMAN INDICATED GOK WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND SAME
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PRIVILEGES TO CITIZENS OF QATAR AND OMAN.

3. COMMENT: TRADITIONALLY ONLY KUWAITI CITIZENS CAN OWN LAND HERE, AND BUSINESSES MUST BE AT LEAST 51 PER CENT KUWAITI OWNED. THEREFORE LIBERALIZATION THESE RULES REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT GESTURE BY GOK, ALTHOUGH IMPORTANT ELEMENT IS TO ALLOW RECIPROCAL RIGHTS FOR KUWAITIS. BAHRAINE AND UAE CITIZENS INCLUDED IN LINE WITH ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED LAST YEAR, AND SAUDIS INCLUDED UNDER AGREEMENT REACHED DURING PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO RIYADH EARLIER THIS YEAR. END COMMENT.

4. IN ADDITION TO THESE MEASURES, GOK HAS DECIDED TO INCREASE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO POORER REGIONAL STATES UNDER PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY GENERAL BOARD FOR SOUTH ARABIA AND ARABIAN GULF. PARLIAMENT HAS APPROVED FY 75/76 BUDGET OF ALMOST KD 10 MILLION OR ABOUT \$34 MILLION. THIS IS DOUBLE LAST YEAR'S LEVEL. ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF BUDGET WILL BE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS AND CLINICS IN BAHRAIN, OMAN AND BOTH YEMENS. ABOUT HALF OF FY 75/76 CONSTRUCTION COSTS WILL BE SPENT IN BAHRAIN (ABOUT KD 3 MILLION). ANOTHER KD 2 MILLION WILL BE SPENT IN NORTH YEMEN; SLIGHTLY OVER KD 1 MILLION IN PDRY AND KD 750,000 IN OMAN.

5. COMMENT: SOME LOCAL NEWSPAPER REPORTS SUGGESTED THAT GOK HAS RUN INTO SOME RESISTANCE IN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM IN OMAN, AND THIS MAY BE ONE REASON WHY RELATIVELY LESS BEING EARMARKED FOR THAT COUNTRY.

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